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only radical cure for poverty;" and it is this unassailable truth that he opposes to the futile and at bottom insincere empiricism of the C. O. S. "They are simply not the scientific people that they claim to be, for they have not learned to think straight against the pressure of class interests and class prejudices. Let them apply the reasoning by which they condemn indiscriminate charity to all other modes of transfer of property. Let them accurately study the nature of economic bargains in the light afforded by the writings of economists. . . . The spurious antithesis of 'moral' and 'economic' in methods of reform they will [then] reject as a mere piece of rhetorical bluff, recognizing that every well-ordered reform of economic structure is an expression of the moral force of the community, the 'general will' finding embodiment in some stable and serviceable form of social support."

The final essay, "The Task of Reconstruction," deserves special mention in a philosophic journal, though it is difficult in a short space to convey an adequate notion of its contents. It deals with the tendency, which so strongly dominated the later nineteenth century, toward the dispersion, under the guise of 'specialization,' of intellectual pursuit; and points hopefully toward a revival of the synthetic spirit in recent years. Mr. Hobson characterizes this revival as 'realistic,' meaning that its dominant feature is the willingness to face facts and their consequences, in the hope of extracting from them "a practical philosophy of life, while leaving liberty for the uniqueness and waywardness of the individual." As a criticism of the interaction of social and more definitely intellectual forces this essay is of the utmost importance and value.

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DARWINISM AND MODERN SOCIALISM. By F. W. Headley, F.Z.S.  
London: Methuen, 1909. Pp. xv, 342.

Mr. Headley has a whole-hearted contempt for socialism and makes no attempt to conceal it. His studies in history and natural science have convinced him that our civilization is the result of competition and natural selection, and he believes that the principles on which our society has been built up are essential

to its continuance and further progress. Such apparently socialistic organizations as the village community in India or the Russian mir admitted a leaven of competition, and in any case the world is moving steadily away from them. In large and complex societies like our own, collectivism would be sheer madness, paralyzing initiative and discouraging foresight. The history of the human race has been the history of effort, of struggle against difficulties, hardships, and enemies. Socialism is the philosophy of failure. The struggle for existence is a stern, but kindly taskmaster, coercing us into vigor and happiness. The strength of socialism lies in the hardships which the competitive system allows; but these hardships can be removed without throwing individualism out of the window.

Such is the attitude of Mr. Headley. Much of what he says is true and many of his illustrations are sound enough. But one need not be a socialist to feel that the book is too cocksure, and that the treatment of very difficult questions, both of theory and practice, is somewhat superficial. Whether nature and history are such uncompromising champions of the competitive principle as he asserts is a matter of opinion, and the other side of the story has been told with power and learning in Prince Kropotkin's "Mutual Aid." The volume will be useful to beginners as a vigorous presentation of one side in a great controversy; to more advanced students it has little to offer.

G. P. GOOCH.

London.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

THE SPIRITUAL NATURE OF MAN. By Stanton Coit. (Ethical Message Series, No. II.) London: The Ethical Church, Queen's Road, Bayswater, 1910. Pp. 112.

THE NEW LAO KOON: An Essay on the Confusion of the Arts. By Irving Babbitt. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1910. Pp. xiv, 259.

OTELLO DELINQUENTE. Di R. R. Alfonso. (Lettura Fatta nell' Università di Roma per la Fine del Corso di Psicologia Criminale nell' Anno 1909-10.) Roma: Ermanno Loescher & Co., 1910. Pp. 51.

STANDARDS OF REASONABLENESS IN LOCAL FREIGHT DISCRIMINATIONS. By John Maurice Clark. (Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Edited by the Faculty of Political Science of Columbia University. Vol.